

December 2, 2004
Case No.: AUS920000805US1 (9000/14)
Serial No.: 09/738,371
Filed: December 15, 2000
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SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the depicted example, a server 21, a client 22, a client 23, a server 31, and a server 51 are connected to network 20; server 31, a client 32, a client 33, a client 34, and a server 41 are connected to network 30; server 41, a client 42, a client 43, and a server 44 are connected to network 40; server 51, a client 52, a client 53, a server 61, and a server 71 are connected to network 50; server 61, a client 62, a client 63, and a client 64 are connected to network 60; and server 71, a client 72, a client 73, and a client 74 are connected to network 70. Clients 22, 23, 32-34, 42-44, 52, 53, [[61-62]] 62-64, and [[72-73]] 72-74, and servers 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, and 71 are nodes of distributed data processing system 10 that may be represented by a variety of computing devices, such as mainframes, personal computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), etc. Distributed data processing system 10 may [[includes]] include additional servers, clients, networks, routers, and other devices not shown. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that each server 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, and 71 provides one or more assigned services, e.g., lodging service, authentication service, gateway service, etc., for distributed data processing system 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6 line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to FIGS. 1A, 2A and 2B, a service allocation device 100 in accordance with the present invention and a service allocation method 110 in accordance with the present invention are shown, respectively. Service allocation device [[70]] 100 is installed within or accessible by one or more servers 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, and 71 to facilitate an optimal allocation of services between servers 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, and 71. Service allocation device 100 includes a probe 101, a module 102, and an engine 103.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6 line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

During stage S114 of method 110, probe 101 utilizes logical data LD to collect performance data PD representative of the physical characteristics of distributed data processing system 10 as would occur to those of ordinary skill in the art. Performance data PD can ~~[[includes]]~~ include a round trip time, a hop count, and a bottleneck speed as measured from each server 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, and 71. For example, a round trip time indicating the mean communication time between server 21 and each client 22, 23, 32-34, 42-44, 52, 53, ~~[[61-62]]~~ 62-64, and ~~[[72-73]]~~ 72-74 can be measured by probe 101. Also by example, a hop count indicating server 31 and server 41 are required to route a service from server 21 to client 43 can be measured by probe 101. Another example is a bottleneck speed indicating a lowest link speed between server 21 and client 63 can be measured by probe 101.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7 line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

During stage S116 of method 110, module 102 utilizes performance data PD to provide cluster data CD that identifies each node cluster within distributed data processing system 10. A node cluster is an aggregation of nodes of distributed data processing system 10 that can be viewed as one node for purposes of providing the network service for distributed data processing system 10. For example, based on performance data PD, cluster data CD can identify a node cluster NC1 as shown in FIG. ~~[[4A]]~~ 3A, a node cluster NC2 as shown in FIG. ~~[[4B]]~~ 3B, and a node cluster NC3 as shown in FIG. ~~[[4C]]~~ 3C.